

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Preliminary matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 9-11 due to a dependency error. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohtsuka (EP 0 804 018 A2) ("Ohtsuka") and Takemura et al. (US 6,089,772) ("Takemura").

A. Claim 8

Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 8 recites, "monitoring a status information when a cartridge for printing is installed on the printer or the cartridge is replaced with another cartridge, the status information sent from the printer, where the printer is equipped with a sensor to detect that the cartridge has been attached; determining whether the cartridge for printing has been attached to the printer; and enabling a button for advancing process to be clicked by a user if it is determined that the cartridge has been attached to the printer."

According to the above features, when a new cartridge is installed or a used cartridge is substituted with a new cartridge, the process proceeds step-by-step. For example, whether the cartridge is attached is determined, and if attached, the system awaits a user operation of clicking "ok," rather than proceeding to the next process automatically. Thus, users can easily understand the process they are conducting. Namely, if the process proceeded by just sensing the attachment of the cartridge, as soon as the user attached the cartridge, the displayed content would quickly change and could potentially confuse a user, especially those who are not familiar with printer operations.

Applicant submits that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed features. In Ohtsuka, after receiving ID signals from an ink cartridge, the printer prints at the best printing mode which corresponds to the ink represented by the ID signals. Since, however, the received signals are ID signals, they are not the result of an attaching operation of the cartridge. Further, when the ID signals are not received, the printer processes that an error has occurred. In Takemura, the user interface displays OK to be clicked when a print speed and a print quality are designated (Fig. 46). However, Takemura does not confirm the existence of an ink cartridge.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that even if the teachings of Ohtsuka and Takemura are taken together, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the invention recited in claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 8.

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B. Claims 9 and 10

Since claims 9 and 10 are dependent upon claim 8, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 11

Since claim 11 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and has been incorporated into claim 8, Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments presented above.

D. Claims 12 and 13

Since claims 12 and 13 contain features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 8, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 8.

III. Conclusion

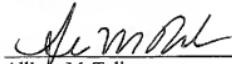
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


Allison M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,294

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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